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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 MADRID 000652

SIPDIS

For CA/VO/F/P

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: VWP - UPDATE ON 10/26/05 DEADLINE - SPAIN

REF: A) STATE 023029; B) STATE 9752

1. Consul General contacted Director General for Consular Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Commissario for Documentary Services to transmit information in Ref A and to request an update on the information requested:

2. Name of the Project Manager for Spain

Jos Santiago Snchez Aparicio,
Chief of Spanish Document Unit of the Spanish National Police SNP (Comisario Jefe de la Unidad de Documentacin de Espaoles)

His two principal team members are:

Jose Luis Diaz Aguado, who handles the technical security parameters.
Javier Marquina, who is an engineer at the National Mint.

3. Timeline for Pilot Testing

There is no specific timeline at this time. The EU has just established the common parameters and provided each EU country with sixteen months to implement the EU biometric parameters. The SNP expect to have a pilot project running the first quarter of 2006, but they cannot be more specific at this time. They have linked the biometric passport with an updated National Identity Card (E-DNI), which will include a chip with biometric data. CG has seen a prototype "smart card" E-DNI that will be the size of a credit card with a chip holding biometric data. The E-DNI is expected to go into production about the same time and will be used as the basis for the printing and production of the biometric passport.

4. Anticipated Date for Full Production
Assuming the pilot testing goes forward successfully, they anticipate going into full production of biometric passports in the second quarter of 2006.

5. Status of Procurement Efforts and/or Legislative Changes

SNP has been investigating the sources for equipment, but they do not have any procurement orders yet. The National Mint currently prints the passport books, DNI and other security documents and materials (credit cards, lottery tickets, currency, etc). SNP has requested a prototype passport book from the German Company that provides the Spanish Passport Printers. They anticipate receiving the prototype from this company by March of this year. They are already aware of the need to make certain modifications, but clearly some of these details will need to be worked out during testing.

They do not need any legislative action. One year ago, a law was passed to cover the MRP and that legislation included provisions for the biometric passport. Funds were allocated for the project at that time as part of the legislative and budgetary process.

6. Any Particular Problems that might be anticipated in Rolling out the Program

They primarily see technical problems. For example, EU specifications are more stringent than the ICAO specifications, and the Spanish are moving to meet the more stringent EU criteria. They intend to include fingerprint biometrics in the Spanish documents, so their research and development efforts are including not only facial recognition, but also fingerprint biometric identifiers. Since the EU has only recently determined the EU standards, the Spanish are still in the process of evaluating and adapting these common EU standards and goals.

Spanish passport production is handled through decentralized production facilities. Passports are personalized in over 100 Police Stations (SNP) in every

province in the country and at several airports. Domestic production is estimated at approximately 1 million passports annually. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for preparing approximately 200,000 passports annually for expatriate Spanish citizens. MFA is initiating a new procedure for centralizing the production of overseas passports at a facility in Madrid under MFA, following the US model of electronic transfer of data and courier return of passports. They anticipate beginning the pilot on March 1, 2005 with data transfer from three European embassies. This decentralized system will require that the production and procurement be affordable and suitable for this type of production model. They are examining the security issues and the costs involved in the decentralized production and factoring those issues into their planning and development.

Manzanares